

Baptisms and Church Attendance

If you think that baptisms are unfairly increasing the numbers counted in your congregation then you can, if you wish, adopt the following procedure:

1. For the purposes of this form ignore the morning service where the baptism(s) took place.
2. Count the other main morning services over the rest of the month.
3. Put down an average of those other services instead of the baptism services.
4. Put down an asterisk (*) against that figure to show that this is what you have done.

For example, assuming your church had the following attendances at your main Sunday morning service:

Week 1	126
Week 2	108
Week 3	163 (including baptism families)
Week 4	120

When completing this return in the return to St James' House you would:

1. Ignore the service in week 3 (the service which includes baptisms).
2. Count up the other services for the month and divide them by 3 (if there are 3 other services that month, or 4 if it is a 5-Sunday month). This gives an average figure of 118 on the above example (i.e. $126 + 108 + 120 \div 3$).
3. Put 118 down for week 3.
4. Put an asterisk (*) against week 3. So your actual return would look like this:

Week 1	126
Week 2	108
Week 3	118 *
Week 4	120

Please note:

1. This policy only applies to services including baptisms. Other 'one-off' services, such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christingle, should be counted in the normal way.
2. You must base the average figure on at least 3 other services that month.